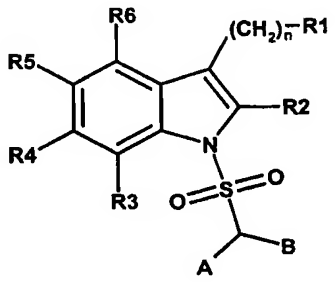
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.- (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide of general formula (Ia),



(Ia)

wherein

R^1 represents a $-NR^7R^8$ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing cycloaliphatic radical, which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system,

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched aliphatic radical, a linear or branched alkoxy radical, a linear or branched alkylthio radical, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, a saturated or unsaturated cycloaliphatic radical, an alkylcarbonyl radical, a phenylcarbonyl or a $-NR^9R^{10}$ group,

R^7 and R^8, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted linear or branched aliphatic radical,

with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them,

R^8 or R^9, is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_4 aliphatic radical, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms,

or

R^7 and R^8, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing heterocyclic ring which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system,

R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical,

or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing heterocyclic ring which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system,

A and B, identical or different, each represent a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched aliphatic radical, optionally at least mono-substituted

or

A and B, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form a saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic cycloalkyl ring, optionally at least mono-substituted

and

n is 0,

~~a stereoisomer thereof, an enantiomer thereof, a diasteromer thereof, a racemate thereof,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~, or mixtures thereof~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents a $-NR^7R^8$ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered.

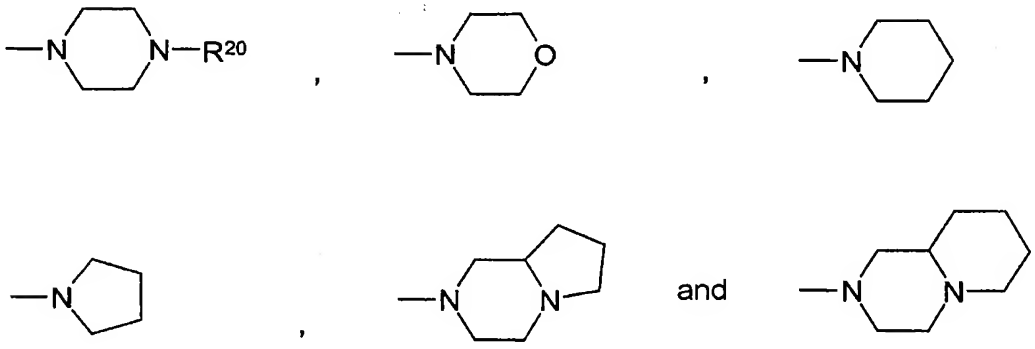
3.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, cyano, nitro, a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl radical, a linear or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl radical, a linear or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl radical, a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkoxy, a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkylthio, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, a saturated or unsaturated C_{3-8} cycloaliphatic radical, a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl radical, phenylcarbonyl or an $-NR^9R^{10}$ group.

4.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^7 and R^8, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-10} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted,C_{2-10} alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted, C_{2-10} alkynyl radical or

R^7 and R^8, together with the bridging nitrogen form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclicc cycloaliphatic ring system, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered.

5.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 4, wherein R^7 and R^8, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_{1-10} alkyl radical or

R^7 and R^8, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of



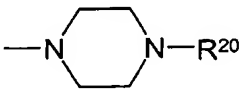
wherein R^{20}, if present, is hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

6.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkynyl radical or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclicc cycloaliphatic ring system whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered.

7.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from a group consisting of



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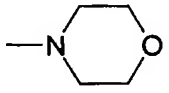

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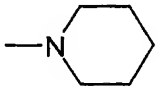

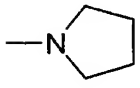

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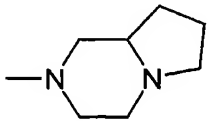

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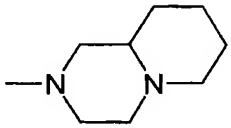


wherein R^{20}, if present, is hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

8.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein A and B, identical or different, each represent a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical or a linear or branched C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, or

A and B, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form a saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloalkyl ring.

9.- (Previously Presented) The compound to claim 1, which is selected from a group consisting of

[1] 1-Cyclohexanesulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-yl)-5-nitro-1H-indole,

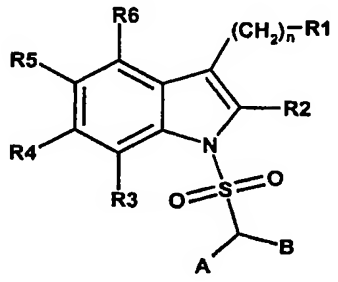
[2] 5-Chloro-1-cyclohexanesulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-yl)-1H-indole,

[3] 5-Amino-1-cyclohexanesulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-yl)-1H-indole,

[4] 1-Cyclohexanesulfonyl-5-fluoro-3-(1,2,3,5,8,8a-hexahydro-indolizine-7-yl)-1H-indole hydrochloride,

a salt thereof, and a solvate thereof.

10.- (Previously Presented) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ib),



(Ib)

wherein

R^1 is a $-NR^7R^8$ radical,

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched aliphatic radical, a linear or branched alkoxy radical, a linear or branched alkylthio radical, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, a saturated or unsaturated cycloaliphatic radical, an alkylcarbonyl radical, a phenylcarbonyl or a $-NR^9R^{10}$ group,

R^7 and R^8, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted linear or branched C_{1-4} aliphatic radical,

R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing heterocyclic ring which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system,

A and B, identical or different, each represent a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical

or

A and B, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form a saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloalkyl ring,

and

n is 0;

a stereoisomer thereof, an enantiomer thereof, a diasteromer thereof, a racemate thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

11.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, cyano, nitro, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, a linear or branched C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, a linear or branched C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 -alkylthio, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, a saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_8 cycloaliphatic radical, a linear or branched C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl radical, phenylcarbonyl or an $-NR^9R^{10}$ group.

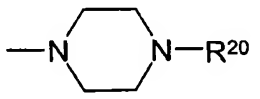
12.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^7 and R^8, identical or different, wherein R^7 and R^8, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_4 alkyl radical with the proviso that R^7 and R^8 are not hydrogen at the same time.

13.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 10, characterized in that R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkynyl radical or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one further heteroatom as a ring member containing 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclicc cycloaliphatic ring system, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered.

14.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 13, wherein R^9 and R^{10}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from a group consisting of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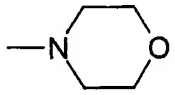
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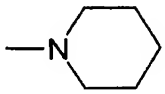

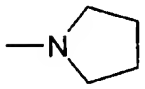
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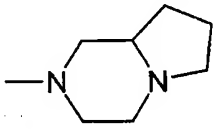
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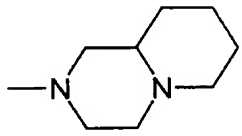
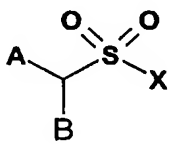


wherein R^{20}, if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

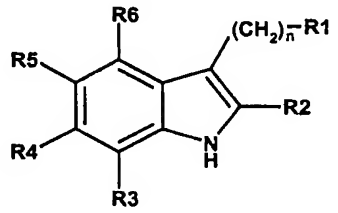
15.- (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A and B, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form a saturated or unsaturated, but not aromatic, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloalkyl ring.

16.- (Previously Presented) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia) according to claim 1, wherein at least one compound of general formula (II), or a protected compound thereof,



(II)

wherein A and B have the meaning according to claim 1 and X is a leaving group, is reacted with at least one substituted indole of general formula (III)



(III)

wherein R^1-R^6 and n have the meaning according to claim 1, or a protected compound thereof, and, if necessary, the protective groups are removed.

17.- (Previously Presented) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia) according to claim 1, wherein one or more substituents R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 or R^6 represent a nitro group, and wherein a sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia) is reduced to a sulfonamide compound of corresponding general formula (Ia), wherein one or more substituents R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 or R^6 represent an amino group.

18.- (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a salt of the compound of formula (Ia) according to claim 1, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a solvent to form the salt of the compound of formula (Ia).

19.- (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 1 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

20- 21- (Cancelled).

22.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating a disorder or disease related to food intake in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder or disease in the subject.

23.- (Previously Presented) A method for regulating appetite in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to regulate appetite in the subject.

24.- (Previously Presented) A method for regulating body weight in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to regulate body weight in the subject.

25.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating obesity in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat obesity in the subject.

26.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating bulimia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat bulimia in the subject.

27.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating anorexia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat anorexia in the subject.

28.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating cachexia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat cachexia in the subject.

29.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating type II diabetes in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat type II diabetes in the subject.

30.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating a gastrointestinal tract disorder in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder in the subject.

31.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating irritable bowel syndrome in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat irritable bowel syndrome in the subject.

32.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating anxiety in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat anxiety in the subject.

33.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating depression in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat depression in the subject.

34.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating bipolar disorder in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder in the subject.

35-42 (Cancelled)

43.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating infantile hyperkinesia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat infantile hyperkinesia in the subject.

44-49 (Cancelled)

50.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating a disorder or disease related to food intake in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder or disease in the subject .

51.- (Previously Presented) A method for regulating appetite in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to regulate appetite in the subject.

52.- (Previously Presented) A method for regulating body weight in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to regulate body weight in the subject.

53.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating obesity in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat obesity in the subject.

54.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating bulimia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat bulimia in the subject.

55.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating anorexia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat anorexia in the subject.

56.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating cachexia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat cachexia in the subject.

57.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating type II diabetes in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat type II diabetes in the subject.

58.- (Previously Presented) A method of treating a gastrointestinal tract disorder in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder in the subject.

59.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating irritable bowel syndrome in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat irritable bowel syndrome in the subject.

60.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating anxiety in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat anxiety in the subject.

61.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating depression in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat depression in the subject.

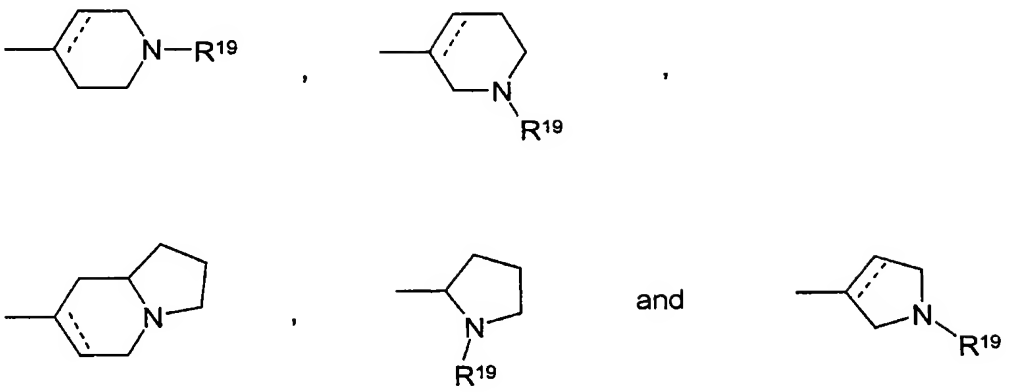
62.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating bipolar disorder in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat the disorder in the subject.

63-70 (Cancelled).

71.- (Previously Presented) A method for treating infantile hyperkinesia in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering at least one compound according to claim 10 in an amount sufficient to treat infantile hyperkinesia in the subject.

72- 74 (Cancelled).

75. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents a NR^7R^8 radical or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein, if present, the dotted line represents an optional chemical bond, and R^{19} represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen or a C_1-C_2 alkyl radical.

76. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6, identical or different, each represent H, F, Cl, NO_2, NH_2 or a C_{1-2} alkyl radical.